



## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### 2018-2019 Requirements for Reading Laws - Guidance for Arkansas Schools

Within Arkansas law there are two statutes pertaining to reading instruction and reporting to parents. Below districts will find guidance for the requirements surrounding each of these laws.

#### **Intensive Reading Instruction (IRI) - [AR Law 6-15-2004](#)**

- **Who must have IRI?** Students in grades K-2 with with substantial deficiency in reading based on K-2 assessment or teacher observations.
- **Where can I find guidance on the scores to use on the K-2 assessment to determine when a child has a substantial deficiency in reading?** [Commissioner's Memo LS-18-047](#) provides the cut scores for each of the K-2 assessments.
- **What is required in the law?** Written parental notification of the deficiency that includes a description of the current services provided and the proposed supplemental services or supports to be provided that are designed to remediate the area of deficiency.
- **ADE Guidance**
  - IRI should begin as close to identification as possible.
  - IRI should continue until the deficiency is corrected.
  - There are no required form(s) from the ADE, schools should have a local practice for documenting and reporting the actions taken within the provided IRI.
  - Additional data, beyond the state required K-2 assessments, will be necessary to identify the specific areas of needed intervention. This additional data may include but is not limited to teacher observation, progress monitoring data, student work samples, and informal diagnostic tools.
  - Interventions chosen to provide the Intensive Reading Instruction must be based on the [Science of Reading](#).
- **What constitutes Intensive Reading Instruction?** Instruction that is above and beyond what is given within the standard curriculum to all students. The intervention must include an evidence based, instructional tool and provide the student with additional instruction targeted to the child's reading deficiencies.

- For example, if all K students receive small group instruction, there must be an evidence based tool utilized within small group instruction for students receiving IRI.

### **Annual Report of Reading Level to Parent - [AR Law 6-15-2006](#)**

- **What is required in the law?** At least two (2) times per year, a public school district shall report in writing to the parent or legal guardian, and each teacher of a student in kindergarten through grade eight (K-8), the independent reading level at which the student is reading.
- **ADE Guidance**
  - Any report sent home must include an interpretation guide that explains the meaning of the score to the parent. For example, if you are reporting Beginning Reader (BR) Lexile level or a 3.4 reading level, what does that mean to a parent about the ability of the child to read? Does that measure indicate the child is above, on, or below grade level? What additional teacher data do you have to report in conjunction with the level provided by your assessment?
  - Districts may use local discretion in choosing the assessment/tool that will be utilized to provide the report of a child's independent reading level.
  - The results of the screenings and/or progress monitoring required in the Dyslexia Law ACA 6-41-601 are recommended to be incorporated when reporting independent reading level.